



September 2014

## Southeast Region

# Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



Al Clough, Southeast Region Director, is a lifelong Alaskan. He is a Juneau-Douglas High School graduate, has a Bachelor's degree in Geology from Western State College of Colorado and a Master's in Economic Geology from the University of Idaho. Al has worked extensively throughout Alaska and especially SE and coastal Alaska during his professional career in mineral exploration, as a commercial pilot, and most recently as SE Region Director since 2011. More specifically, his experience in coastal Alaska extends from Hyder in the far SE of the state to Unalaska on the Aleutian Chain.

**Director's Messages:** It's been a busy construction season throughout SE Region with major projects underway in most communities. Work scheduled for completion early in the summer, for the most part went smoothly with good paving weather in May and early June. Road projects in Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan, along with paving at the Ketchikan Airport were wrapped up nicely. Unfortunately, the unseasonable rains throughout the region in July and August have delayed paving and other work. Specific projects in Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, and on Prince of Wales Island have all been delayed. At this juncture we are optimistic that all paving scheduled for completion in 2014 will be accomplished.

With the days getting shorter, I would like to remind everyone to take extra caution around the ongoing construction projects as a safety measure for both the public and workers. Please slow down as necessary, showing courtesy to other motorists, pedestrians, and construction workers.

Finally, some construction projects, such as the Brotherhood Bridge replacement in Juneau, Clark Bay Ferry terminal project on Prince of Wales Island, Kodiak Ferry Terminal dock replacement, along with other marine projects in Western Alaska will continue through the winter months. We thank everyone in advance for your cooperation as SE Region DOT&PF works to improve and maintain our regional transportation system.

For comments or questions about the newsletter: [DOT.SER.Director@alaska.gov](mailto:DOT.SER.Director@alaska.gov)

## Construction Highlights



**Ketchikan-North Tongass Hwy, Ward Cove to Refuge Cove:** Secon completed this \$9 million project in August. The work included realignments, overhead utilities, widening and paving. It was the fourth and final phase of an overall \$30 million reconstruction of 4.7 miles of North Tongass Highway from Ward Cove to Whipple Creek that began in 2004. Secon was the contractor on all four phases.

# Construction Highlights

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**M&O Special Projects Team:** An invaluable part of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the M&O Special Projects Team takes on projects all over Alaska. In Southeast region, team project manager Scott Gray is the region's maintenance specialist. Lead foreman, Matt Boron also serves as the Haines foreman and airport manager. Administrative assistant, Joa Sangster provides crucial support to the team. The team includes equipment operators from all over Southeast region: Rodney Anderson and Tony Latzel (Yakutat); Dan Fitzpatrick and Chris Downer (Haines); Bill Overton (Juneau); Richard Asplund and Bob Olsen (Petersburg); Colin Ayers (Ketchikan); and Barry Peratrovich (Klawock).

Preventative maintenance is key to achieving a healthier highway infrastructure. One of the biggest highway projects is a six week hit-the-ground-running program in Southeast Alaska. This \$1.5 million project includes base stabilization and chip sealing. The goal of the project is to focus on maintaining existing chip sealed roads and applying an additional wearing surface to asphalt highways.

## Sitka - Sawmill Creek Road, Stage

**III:** This two-season project was completed by Quality Asphalt Paving in July 2014. It is the third and final phase of the reconstruction of Sawmill Creek Road between Jeff Davis Street and Sawmill Creek, which began in 2004. This \$12 million project included minor realignments, a new 4 foot wide shoulder on both sides and an 8 foot wide sidewalk on the water-side of the road. The total cost of all three phases, including the 2007 replacement of Indian River Bridge, came to approximately \$27 million for 5.3 miles.



## Sitka - Halibut Point Road Pavement

**Rehabilitation:** This \$19 million project includes replacement of two bridges, replacement of 4,900 linear feet of culvert pipes and storm drains, and rehabilitation of 7 miles of asphalt pavement. ASRC/McGraw began the bridge replacements and completed the majority of the drainage work in 2013. The first 1.7 miles of pavement rehab were completed this June and the bridges were finished in August. Paving for the remainder of the project, which was delayed due to unforeseen subsurface obstructions and poor weather, was completed in September 2014. The goal is to wrap up the project by the end of October 2014.



# Construction Highlights

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## **Prince of Wales - Klawock to Hollis**

**Pavement Rehabilitation:** This August, Alaska Interstate Construction finished paving this \$13 million project and is currently in the process of wrapping up the last few items. This 23 mile pavement rehabilitation includes isolated subgrade repairs, replacement of 9,800 linear feet of culvert pipe and the addition of an asphalt overlay. The majority of subgrade repairs and culvert installations were completed in 2013, leaving the paving for summer 2014.



## **Juneau - Glacier Highway/Back Loop Intersection Improvements (Roundabout):**

Work on this \$5 million project began summer 2013 and was recently completed by Miller Construction in mid-August 2014. Summer 2013 saw utility and drainage work, as well as the installation of embankments. This summer, construction of the traffic circle, including the addition of curbs, sidewalks, paving, striping and lighting was completed.

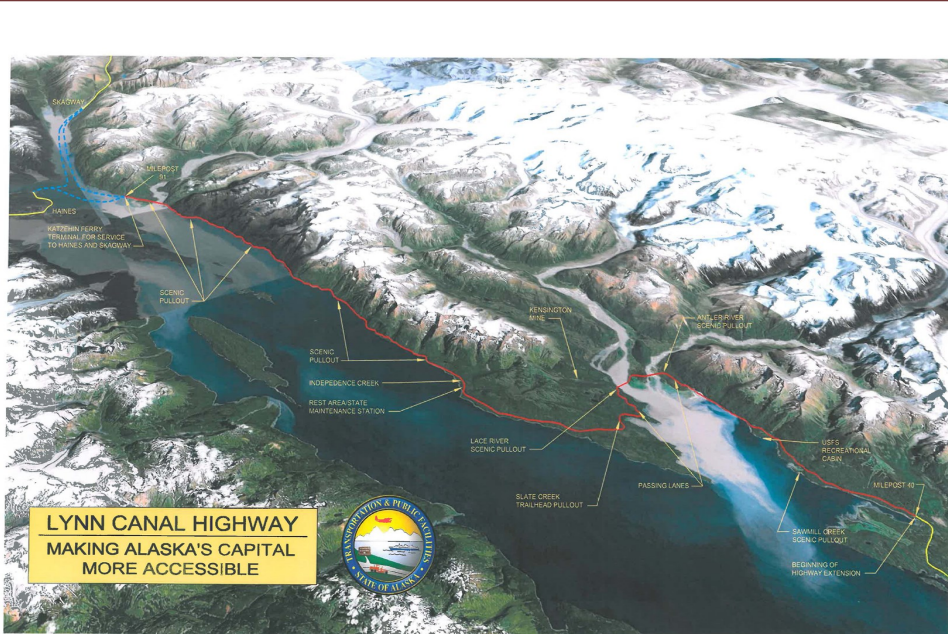
**Juneau Brotherhood Bridge Piers:** This summer Orion Marine Contractors built a temporary work structure across Mendenhall River in addition to driving the piling for the northern (upstream) section of the new bridge. Some of the pilings are nearly 300 feet deep. Project managers hope to have the northern section of the new bridge in place and the approach embankments constructed in the next couple of months. Traffic is scheduled to be routed over the new structure by November 2014 and demolition of the old bridge will occur soon after. The \$25 million project is expected to be complete by fall 2015.





## Design Highlights

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## Lynn Canal Highway (Juneau Access Improvements):

The Juneau Access Improvements project will enhance public transportation to and from Juneau within the Lynn Canal corridor. It will reduce travel time and user costs, provide capacity to meet demand and improve public opportunity to travel.

The preferred alternative (Alternative 2B) will provide road access from the end of the existing highway at Echo Cove to Katzehin River, where a new ferry terminal is proposed. Ferry

service would connect Katzeihin to Haines and Skagway. The department has contracted with HDR Alaska, Inc. to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The SEIS will fully evaluate a stand-alone alternative designed to improve service in Lynn Canal using existing Alaska Marine Highway System assets. The SEIS will also update the final EIS reasonable alternatives and address changes in applicable laws, regulations and approvals. DOT&PF anticipates that a draft SEIS will be released in fall 2014 and a final SEIS/Record of Decision will follow in the summer of 2015. The Federal Highway Administration will sign the Draft SEIS and circulate the document for public review for a period of 45 days. The public review and comment period will include public hearings in Juneau, Haines and Skagway.

## Haines Highway Improvements:

This project will improve Haines Highway between milepoint 3.5 - 25.3. It replaces the Chilkat River Bridge, provides highway protection at debris flow areas and improves intersections, driveways and recreational turnout accesses. Additional improvements include curve realignments, construction of six foot shoulders and the addition of new passing zones. The environmental process is scheduled to conclude May 2015. Construction will occur in multiple phases after the completion of final design. The order and number of phases will depend on funding.



# Design Highlights

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## **Glacier Highway Reconstruction, Fritz Cove to Seaview:**

This project will improve the transportation corridor for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Proposed upgrades include the installation of new pavement, sidewalks, shoulder bike lanes on both sides of the roadway and lighting.

The project also includes a center turn lane through Auke Bay beyond the new roundabout and a curve realignment between Fritz Cove Road and the new roundabout. An environmental document has been completed and this project and is currently in final design.

## **Katlion Bay Road:**

This project will provide access to Katlian Bay from the end of Halibut Point Road near Starrigavan Bay. The approximately 9 mile long single lane road will provide recreational access to USFS lands beyond the private lands in Katlian Bay. The road will also provide access to a rock material source for development purposes in Sitka.

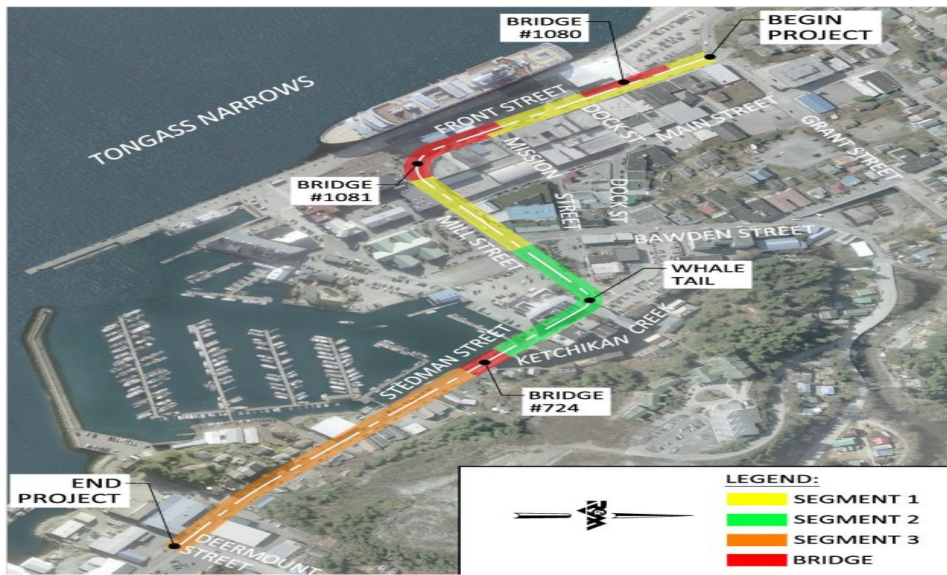
LEI Engineering & Surveying is currently moving forward on the design for the project. Late this summer and into the fall, the LEI team will work on preliminary engineering activities, such as route surveying and reconnaissance level investigations.





# Design Highlights

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## Ketchikan Front, Mill, & Stedman Street

**Reconstruction:** This project will provide safe passage for pedestrians and vehicles within the downtown Ketchikan corridor of the South Tongass Highway.

The need for the project stems from heavy pedestrian and vehicle traffic in the area. The existing road and pedestrian facilities are in need of renovations due to pavement deterioration, damaged/undersized sidewalks and drainage deficiencies.

Final design is expected to begin spring 2015, following the development of an environmental document.



**Prince Rupert Ferry Terminal Replacement:** The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) Prince Rupert Ferry Terminal located in the Port of Prince Rupert in the Canadian Province of British Columbia is planned to be replaced in 2015. Southeast region staff and consultants from CH2M Hill have been planning and designing the new ferry terminal for the past two years. The existing marine facilities were originally constructed in 1964 and are fast approaching the end of their useful life. The department plans to remove and replace all marine berthing facilities with modern steel berthing and mooring structures. The existing bridge lift system will be replaced with a new steel transfer bridge and a steel float system. Project design is nearing completion and bid advertisement is expected to take place November 2014. Field construction should be underway by 2015 and fully completed by winter or spring 2016.

# Design Highlights

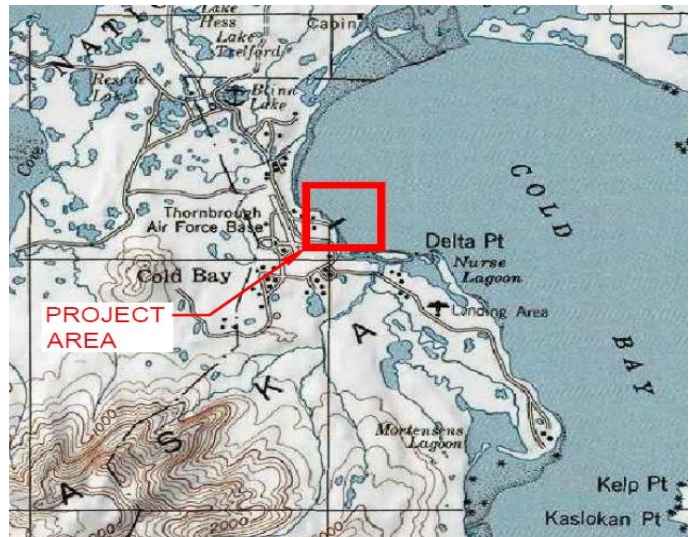
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**In addition to our work in the Panhandle**, SE Region continues to upgrade the Department's ferry terminals across the state, in cooperation with the Alaska Marine Highway System. Construction work is just getting underway on a \$9,000,000 upgrade of the Kodiak Ferry Terminal. In addition, we are in the process of awarding contracts for upgrades to the ferry terminals in Akutan and Cold Bay, and we will be bidding a ferry terminal project in Homer later this fall. Design work has just begun on an upgrade of the dock in Chignik.

Kodiak Ferry Terminal



Cold Bay Ferry Terminal



Homer Ferry Terminal



Chignik Ferry Terminal







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## Important Links

### How do I...

- Find general information about Southeast Region? [dot.alaska.gov/sereg](http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg)
- Get more information about active Southeast Region Projects? [dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects-status/](http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects-status/)
- Find websites for southeast Region Projects? [dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/](http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/)
- Get MAP 21 information? [fhwa.dot.gov/map21/](http://fhwa.dot.gov/map21/)
- Find project advertising dates? [dot.state.ak.us/apps/contracts](http://dot.state.ak.us/apps/contracts)
- Find key Department contacts? [www.dot.alaska.gov/comm/contacts.shtml](http://www.dot.alaska.gov/comm/contacts.shtml)

*A bend in the road is not  
the end of the road  
unless you fail to make the  
turn.  
- Anonymous*

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